REMARKS

As for claim objections directed to claim 12, we have deleted the article "a". As a result of this amendment, we believe the objection has now been overcome.

The Examiner states that claims 1, 3-7 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent application Publication number 2004/0084521 A1 by Nagayoshi et al in view of patent No. 4,524,268 by Fukatsu.

As we argued in the past responses, the object of the present invention is to provide a printed note deposit machine and system that ensure a detection of counterfeit notes and captures such notes as a proof of a crime, see the description in page 2, lines 10-15.

We have further amended basic claims 1 and 9 to add further limitation of a predetermined storage cell for the storage of counterfeit notes and that the counterfeit notes are captured in the predetermined storage cell for examination. The reason why such capture is performed is to obtain evidence to support proof of a crime. Therefore, the captured printed note is not returned to the user.

Nagayoshi et al was also cited in the previous action. The object of Nagayoshi et al is to provide an automatic teller machine capable of verifying printed notes with high accuracy and less likely to reject genuine notes while maintaining the regular high-speed performance. Accordingly, the object of the present invention and that of Nagayoshi et al are quite different from each other.

We also stated in the previous response that the automatic tell machine disclosed in Nagayoshi et al incorporates each in/our unit 101, and these elements respectively correspond to cash in/out unit, identifying unit, temporary money holder and rejection unit of the present invention, but at receiving transaction of the counterfeit notes classified by step 304 are returned to the cash I/O unit. See page 2, left column lines 18-21. Therefore, a proof of a crime (use of counterfeit) will be permanently lost.

We would like to draw the Examiner's attention, as stated in an earlier response, that in Nagayoshi et al, the temporary stacker is used only for the notes other than the rejected or counterfeit notes. Therefore, the function of the temporary money holder of

the present invention and the function of the temporary stacker of Nagayoshi et al are completely different from each other.

The cited reference Fukatsu relates to an automatic bank note transaction system and indeed teaches the use of a temporary holder (temporary stacking section 21) as the Examiner mentioned. However, in the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Fukatsu teaches using the temporary money holder for storing counterfeit notes and that the counterfeit notes are retained in the temporary money holder.

To the contrary, although the temporary holder is a holder that holds notes for a short time and the temporary stored notes include counterfeit notes all of the temporary stored notes are conveyed from the temporary stacking section 21 to the bill receiving/dispensing port 4. Therefore, the counterfeit notes are not retained nor is there any suggestion of this and accordingly evidence supporting proof of a crime will be permanently lost.

Accordingly, claim 1 is clearly distinguished from the combination of Nagayoshi and Fukatsu.

These arguments are also applicable to claim 9 as well since claim 9 as amended includes all of elements of claim 1.

The Examiner further states that claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayoshi in view of Fukatsu as applied to claim 7, and further in view of Utz.

Utz discloses that stack of sheets is inserted in the chute 82 and the sheets are transferred and evaluated. As a result of the evaluation, acceptable sheets are stored in a chest portion and unacceptable sheets which may possibly include counterfeit notes are routed to a storage area.

However, this is not meaningful since Utz fails to disclose both a temporary money holder and a rejection unit to return the rejected notes to the user. It is essential to the printed note deposit machine of claims 1 and 9 to return rejected notes to the user. This is not the case in Utz. In addition, Utz fails to disclose categorizing i.e. Identifying and

classifying in an identifying unit the printed notes into 4 distinct groups such that the counterfeit and unidentifiable notes can and are separately stored in a predetermined storage cell. In the subject deposit machine of the present invention, identified authenticated notes are returned to the user upon request.

As explained above, the printed notes of the subject invention are unique and require the notes to be classified into four separate categories inclusive of authenticated notes, counterfeit notes, unidentifiable notes and rejected notes (which must be returned) and are stored in a unique fashion which permits classifying the notes and using a predetermined storage cell for classified counterfeit notes. Claims 1 and 9 make possible the capture of counterfeit notes and unidentifiable notes in a capture bin. Counterfeit notes and unidentifiable notes are not returned to the user, whereas rejected notes are immediately returned and authenticated notes will also be returned upon request.

Contrary to the Examiner's comments, such function of the memory is neither disclosed or suggested in either of the citations.

Therefore, claims 1 and 9 and their dependent claims are clearly patentable over the references of record.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-9 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 15, 2007.

Signed: L. Felicetti

Dated: October 15, 2007